

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE August 4, 2021 — MINUTES

Council Members Present

Mary Durham, Council Chair
Hunter Adkins
Kimberly Blackmon
Ronnie Browning
Gladys Cortez
Kristen Cox
Andrew Crim
Mary Faithfull, DRTX
Jennifer Hines, TWC
Scott McAvoy
Meagan Orsag, Texas A&M
CDD
Justin Porter, TEA
Randell Resneder
Robert Schier III
Eric Shahid
Molly Spratt
Toby Summers
Lora Taylor
John Thomas
Kim Torres
Audrey Young, DSHS
Nina Zuna, TCDS

Council Members Absent

Maverick Crawford
Holly Riley, HHSC/Older
Americans Act
Michael Peace
Dana Williamson,
HHSC/Medicaid

Guests Present

Clair Benitez
Kyle Cox
Jesse Garza
Laura Marquez

Regional Coordinators

Present
Morgan Bradley
Rosa Guel
Skyler Mueller
Shelby Vaughn

Staff Present

Beth Stalvey, Executive
Director
Delysa Amissah-Aidoo
Scott Daigle
Robert Garcia
Lauren Gerken
Sabrina Gonzalez
Stacey Kaleh
Genessee Klemm
Le Lien
Linda Logan
Evan Marczynski
Sylvia Medina
Richard Rendon
Mary Rochford
Fernando Rodriguez
Rey Valldejuli
Koren Vogel
Rosalin Willis

Call to Order

Pursuant to the Governor's March 16, 2020 suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Committee of the Whole of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities met virtually using the Zoom platform on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. Council Chair Mary Durham called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. A quorum was present.

1. Introductions

Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

2. **Public Comments**

No public comments were offered.

3. **Council Brand Proposal and Selection**

Director of Communications and Reporting Stacey Kaleh provided a brief overview of branding and the touch points that influence perceptions of an organization. She discussed reasons TCDD is re-branding and the process that has led to proposals for Council members to consider. She reported on audience research, considerations of inclusion and accessibility, and collaborative efforts to develop the proposals.

Kaleh and TCDD Communications staff members presented two options for an agency “tagline”: 1) Inclusive. Innovative. Impactful; and 2) Toward a More Inclusive Texas. After discussion, members overwhelmingly selected “Inclusive. Innovative. Impactful.

Kaleh and TCDD Communications staff members presented three options for a new TCDD logo. The first was a circle with a checkmark described as a legacy from the current TCDD logo. The second was labeled as “community connections” and included shapes meant to represent individuals with and without disabilities. The third was labeled DD and included overlapping capital Ds. Staff presented font and color options with these logos. As members discussed options, the use of the shape of Texas instead of the circle in the first presented logo took form and members overwhelmingly liked this option.

MOTION: To recommend Council approval of a new TCDD logo and tagline: Inclusive. Innovative. Impactful.

MADE BY: Robert Schier III

SECOND: Randell Resneder

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. **Legislative Update**

Public Policy Director Scott Daigle provided updates from the 87th Texas Legislature including legislation that impacted the TCDD Policy Priorities. Daigle reported on the budget for the FY 2022 – FY 2023 Biennium, 1,549 additional slots to Medicaid Waiver programs, lack of increase to Community Attendant wages, and changes to healthcare such as a ban on organ donation discrimination against people with disabilities, removal of statutory barriers to vaccine access, and expansion of the Texas Compassionate Use Program. He also discussed passed legislation that impacts guardianship, criminal justice issues, employment, special education, and emergency management. Daigle informed members that SJR 19 “Right to Essential Caregivers for in-person visitation” will be on the November ballot as a constitutional

amendment.

5. **TCDD State Plan**

Executive Director Beth Stalvey led a discussion on the progress of implementation of the TCDD State Plan.

A. **FY 2016 – FY 2021 Wrap-up**

Members first discussed the FY 2016 – FY 2021 State Plan that is ending. The Quarterly Progress of State Plan Projects report (QPPR) was reviewed and Stalvey provided highlights of projects from Project Amistad (Peer Support Specialists for Individuals in Institutions), University of Massachusetts Medical School (Complex Mental Health Needs), and Texas Tech University (Complex Mental Health Needs).

Leadership and Advocacy Training Program Manager Genessee Klemm discussed the success of the recent Disability Advocacy Summit, held virtually, which had over 100 participants and 18 different sessions. Klemm also spoke about the upcoming Partners in Policymaking program set to begin in October with 41 participants.

Community Outreach Program Manager Morgan Bradley provided updates on Regional Coordinator activities including virtual education series on Disability Employment Awareness, Knowledge is Power/Special Education, and Aging with IDD. She also reported work on educational materials on guardianship, participation with the Faith and Disability Network, and regional connection meetings for advocates.

B. **FY 2022 – FY 2026 Submission**

Stalvey next reported on the transition to the FY 2022 – FY 2026 State Plan. As activities shift to the new plan, the QPPR will take on a new format. Projects completed under the current plan will not be reported. Projects that are in progress will be featured under the new state plan goals and objectives.

The Administration on Community Living (ACL) delayed the submittal of the State Plan Goals and Objectives and has a new deadline of September 15, 2021. The submission will also include a narrative that includes the state of services in Texas and the justification for the selected goals and objectives.

6. **Future Agenda Items**

Council Member Randell Resneder requested discussion of Disability Awareness Week. Public Policy Committee Chair Lora Taylor asked members with comments on Legislative Interim Charge Recommendations to send those to her or Public Policy Director Daigle.

Adjourn

Council Chair Durham adjourned the Committee of the Whole at 11:45 AM.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council Date